GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2189
ANSWERED ON:06.05.2016
Ratio of the Health Workforce
Samal Dr. Kulamani;Singh Shri Dushyant

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

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(a) the details of the ratio of the health workforce including physicians, nursing and midwifery personnel, dentistry personnel etc. in the country;

(b) whether most of these densities are less than respective global averages; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government for addressing each of the issues?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA)
(a) & (b): As per information provided by respective regulatory bodies, 9,59,198 doctors, 7,89,796 Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANM), 17,93,337 Registered Nurse & Registered Midwives (RN&RM) and 1,57,731 Dentists are registered in the country.
Assuming 80% availability, it is estimated that around 7.67 lakh doctors may be actually available for active service. It gives a doctor-population ratio of 1:1681. Besides there are 6.77 lakh Ayurveda, Unani and Homeopathy (AUH) doctors in the country. If the allopathic and AUH streams are considered together, it gives a doctor population ratio of 1: 893. Similarly, considering 80% availability of ANMs and 60% availability of RN&RMs to be currently available in service, there would be 17.08 lakhs of nurses in service in the country, which would give 1: 731 as the nurse population ratio.
(c): The Government has taken the following steps to further augment the availability of doctors in the country:
I. The ratio of teachers to students has been revised from 1:1 to 1:2 for all MD/MS disciplines and 1:1 to 1:3 in subjects of Anaesthesiology, Forensic Medicine, Radiotherapy, Medical Oncology, Surgical Oncology and Psychiatry.
II. DNB qualification has been recognized for appointment as faculty to take care of shortage of faculty.
III. Enhancement of maximum intake capacity at MBBS level from 150 to 250.
IV. Enhancement of age limit for appointment/extension/re-employment against posts of teachers/dean /principal/ director in medical colleges from 65-70 years.
V. Relaxation in the norms for setting up of a medical college in terms of requirement for land, faculty, staff, bed/ bed strength and other infrastructure.
VI. Strengthening/upgradation of State Government Medical Colleges for starting new PG courses/Increase of PG seats with fund sharing between the Central and State Government.
VII. Establishment of New Medical Colleges by upgrading district/referral hospitals preferably in underserved districts of the country with fund sharing between the Central Government and States.
VIII. Strengthening/ upgradation of existing State Government/Central Government Medical Colleges to increase MBBS seats with fund sharing between the Central Government and States.
IX. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of upgradation/strengthening of Nursing Services (ANM/GNM), this Ministry has approved 128 ANM and 137 GNM Schools across the Country.